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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Ecuador/Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 9 May 1952

SUBJECT Sale of Czech Merchandise in Ecuador
by Robert Bartus

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(LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED

DO NOT CIRCULATE

SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. In December 1951 the "Co-operative Club" of Ecuador purchased \$14,000 worth of pistols from Czechoslovakia through Robert Bartus, representative of Czech firms in Quito.
2. There are two "co-operative clubs" in Ecuador, one composed primarily of civilians, with a few military personnel, having as its purpose practice in shooting. While this club is not official, it must abide by the regulations of the Minister of Defense, who has reportedly refused to grant them authorization to import pistols and ammunition from Czechoslovakia.
3. The second "Co-operative Club", which is also unofficial, is made up of a group of officers who are friends of the Minister of Defense. This club is reported to have obtained authorization from the Minister to import pistols and ammunition from Czechoslovakia and is therefore believed to be the one referred to in paragraph 1.

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4. It has been learned from Robert Bartus, owner of the "El Barco" firm in Quito, that during 1951 he sold \$180,000 worth of Czech goods and that during the first three months of 1952 he sold \$170,000 worth of Czech merchandise. Bartus has stated that the major portion of the merchandise sold consisted of metal roofing material for use in reconstruction work in Ambato and Pelileo. Bartus further stated that he sells about 1,000 meters of material for officers' uniforms monthly. During the first three months of 1952 he sold \$25,000 worth of this material, valued at six dollars per meter, including insurance and freight.

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